

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device, at least a portion of the lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft; and

a housing member which is secured to said nut member and houses said lubricant supply device, said nut member being positioned outside of said housing member,

wherein said housing member is disposed to project from an axial end surface of the nut member and along an outer circumferential surface of the lubricant supply device, said outer circumferential surface extending in a longitudinal direction of said screw shaft.

18. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device, at least a portion of the lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft; and

a housing member which is secured to said nut member and houses said lubricant supply device, said nut member being positioned outside of said housing member,

wherein said housing member comprises a cylindrical portion covering an outer circumferential surface of the lubricant supply device, and said outer circumferential surface extends beyond an end face of said nut member.

22. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device, at least a portion of the lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft; and

a housing member which is secured to said nut member and houses said lubricant supply device,

wherein said housing member has a cylindrical portion that extends away from said nut member so as to surround said lubricant supply device.

23. (New) The feed screw device of claim 17, further comprising:

a means for securing said housing to said nut member.

24. (New) The feed screw device of claim 18, further comprising:

a means for securing said housing to said nut member.

25. (New) The feed screw device of claim 19, further comprising:

a means for securing said housing to said nut member.

26. (New) The feed screw device of claim 22, further comprising:

a means for securing said housing to said nut member.

27. (New) The feed screw device of claim 23, wherein said means for securing comprises a screw threaded to contact at least a portion of said nut member and into at least a portion of said housing.

28. The feed screw device of claim 24, wherein said means for securing comprises a screw threaded to contact at least a portion of said nut member and into at least a portion of said housing.

29. (New) The feed screw device of claim 25, wherein said means for securing comprises a screw threaded to contact at least a portion of said nut member and into at least a portion of said housing.

30. (New) The feed screw device of claim 26, wherein said means for securing comprises a screw threaded to contact at least a portion of said nut member and into at least a portion of said housing.

31. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

- a screw shaft;
- a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;
- a lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;
- a retaining ring that stores said lubricant supply device and is fixed to said nut member, said nut member being positioned outside of said retaining ring; and
- a fastener that fixes said retaining ring to said nut member,

wherein said retaining ring projects from an axial end surface of the nut member and along an outer circumferential surface of the lubricant supply device, said outer circumferential surface extending in a longitudinal direction of said screw shaft.

32. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a retaining ring that stores said lubricant supply device and is fixed to said nut member, said nut member being positioned outside of said retaining ring; and

a fastener that fixes said retaining ring to said nut member,

wherein said retaining ring comprises a cylindrical portion covering an outer circumferential surface of the lubricant supply device, and said outer circumferential surface extends beyond an end face of said nut member.

33. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a retaining ring that stores said lubricant supply device and is fixed to said nut member, said nut member being positioned outside of said retaining ring, said retaining ring including,

a cylindrical portion that extends away from said nut member, and

an end face that covers an axial end of said lubricant supply device; and

a fastener that fixes said retaining ring to said nut member.

34. (New) A feed screw device comprising:

a screw shaft;

a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a lubricant supply device contacting the outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;

a retaining ring that stores said lubricant supply device and is fixed to said nut member; and

a fastener that fixes said retaining ring to said nut member,
wherein said retaining ring has a cylindrical portion that extends away from said nut member so as to surround said lubricant supply device.

35. (New) The feed screw device of claim 31, wherein said fastener comprises a screw threaded to contact at least a portion of said nut member, and into at least a portion of said retaining ring.

36. (New) A feed screw device comprising:
a screw shaft;
a nut member threadably engaging an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft;
a means for supplying a lubricant to an outer peripheral surface of said screw shaft; and
a means for storing said means for supplying said lubricant outside of said nut member, said means for storing being in contact with a surface of said nut member,
wherein said means for storing extends from an axial end surface of the nut member in a longitudinal direction of said screw shaft.